

# New York City Family Court Volunteer Attorney Program

## LIMITED SCOPE LEGAL SERVICES ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND UNDERSTANDING

Welcome to the New York City Family Court Volunteer Attorney Program. This program is sponsored by the New York State Access to Justice Program & New York City Family Court, in collaboration with a number of private law firms, companies and sole practitioners (collectively, the “Sponsoring Firms”).

This is an **Acknowledgment** between the Sponsors and you. It contains the basic terms of this program, which will provide you with limited legal advice and assistance so that you can better represent yourself in your Family Court case.

**Volunteer Attorneys:** The attorneys who volunteer for this program (the “Volunteer Attorneys”) are selected and approved by the New York City Family Court for participation in the project. They are not court employees.

**Scope of Legal Advice:** You are representing yourself in your case. Neither the Sponsors nor the Volunteer Attorneys are representing you in any capacity. What they will do is provide you with legal information and advice, **only** with respect to issues related to child support, paternity, guardianship, family offense, custody and visitation and **only** based on the information that you provide them. Communications between you and the Volunteer Attorneys will be treated as confidential, in accordance with applicable law and as required by lawyers’ ethical rules.

**Duration of Legal Help:** This arrangement will begin right now and will end at the completion of this meeting. Unless agreed to in writing, the Volunteer Attorneys and the Sponsors will not help you in any capacity after the completion of today’s appointment and will assume no responsibility or liability whatsoever regarding the outcome of your case or your legal problems. You are responsible for meeting all filing deadlines and appearing on all court dates.

**Attorney’s Fees and Costs:** There is no cost for this meeting. There may, however, be costs and court fees associated with your case for which you will be responsible.

The Volunteer Attorney may decline to advise you: (a) if the Volunteer Attorney has actual knowledge that providing advice to you at this time involves a conflict of interest for the Volunteer Attorney or the Volunteer Attorney’s law firm; (b) if your legal problems are too complicated and beyond the scope of this project; or (c) for any other reason set forth in the New York Rules of Professional Conduct.

The Volunteer Attorney or the Volunteer Attorney’s law firm may have an existing conflict of interest in providing advice to you at this time or such a conflict may arise in the future. Unless the Volunteer Attorney has actual knowledge that providing advice to you at this time involves a conflict of interest for the Volunteer Attorney or the Volunteer Attorney’s law firm, you agree to waive any such conflict arising out of the matters discussed here today whether presently or in the future.

This agreement has been read to you in a language that you understand.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Attorney and Firm or Company

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney’s Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Today’s Date